

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 AF-10 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01

/119 W

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O R 140840Z NOV 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4327

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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EO 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN MEDIA REACTION TO POST-CEASEFIRE
AGREEMENT DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY: NOVEMBER 14 CAIRO PRESS REFLECTS INCREASED
PESSIMISM ABOUT SETTLEMENT EFFORTS, PRIMARILY AS RESULT OF
EVENTS ON CAIRO/SUEZ ROAD AND MRS. MEIR'S REMARKS TO KNESSET.
END SUMMARY.

2. AHRAH'S HEADLINE, "SEVERE CRISIS NEAR SUEZ BETWEEN UN
AND ISRAELI FORCES" IS FOLLOWED BY STORY ABOUT MONDAY'S FIST-
FIGHT BETWEEN FINNISH UNEF CONTINGENT AND IDF, XLLLOWING
FORMER'S ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH CHECKPOINT AT KM. 130 (SIC) ON
CAIRO/SUEZ ROAD. SUBHEADLINE NOTES THAT ISRAEL HAS NOT TURNED
OVER CHECKPOINTS AS REQUIRED BY NOVEMBER 11 AGREEMENT.
SMALLER ARTICLE QUOTES NEWS AGENCY SOURCES FROM TEL AVIV
AS STATING THAT IN NOVEMBER 13 ADDRESS TO KNESSET, MRS.
MEIR SAID IDF WOULD NOT OPEN ROAD TO CANAL'S EAST BANK.

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ARTICLE CONTINUES, "THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER REFERRED TO

THE OCTOBER 22 LINES, SAYING 'THEY HAD NO EXISTENCE**' SHE THEN ALLEGED, 'NO ONE CAN DEFINE THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES ON 22 OCTOBER, SINCE THERE WERE NO OBSERVERS IN THE AREA.'" ARTICLE IS FOLLOWED BY COMMENT TO EFFECT THAT SUCH A STATEMENT INDICATES THAT ISRAEL IS DETERMINED TO VIOLATE THE AGREEMENT, AS WELL AS OPPOSE SC RESOLUTIONS 338 AND 339. COMMENT CONCLUDES THAT ISRAEL WILL BEAR THE "DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES" OF THIS OPPOSITION.

3. AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA ALSO CONTAIN ARTICLES ABOUT SUEZ ROAD ALTERCATION AND REFUSAL BY ISRAEL TO TURN OVER CHECK-POINTS TO UN. LATTER NEWSPAPER GIVES GREATER PROMINENCE TO REPORTING ON MRS. MEIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN KNESSET, AND FOLLOWS WITH ITS OWN COMMENT TO EFFECT THAT CEASEFIRE IS DEPENDENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT'S SIX POINTS. COMMENT ADDS THAT WHILE ISRAELI ATTITUDE IS NOT NEW IT RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT US POSITION, SINCE IT WAS US WHICH LED TO SIGNING OF SIX-POINT ACCORD. GUMHURIYYA'S COMMENT CONCLUDES: "IF MEIR SAYS 'THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT IS CONDITIONAL ON MUTUAL OBSERVANCE BY BOTH PARTIES OF THIS AGREEMENT,' THEN WE LOOK TO HER--AND TO OTHERS--THAT THE CEASEFIRE IS CONDITIONAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION BY ISRAEL--AS A FIRST STEP--OF THE SIX POINTS, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS WITHDRAWAL TO THE OCTOBER 22 LINES. IF, HOWEVER, MEIR INSISTS ON CONTINUING THE ATTEMPTS AT EVADING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WHAT SHE HAS AGREED TO, THEN THERE ARE OTHER CALCULATIONS WHICH ISRAEL IS AWARE OF."

4. CAIRO RADIO HAS BEEN CARRYING SIMILAR THEME, NOTING THAT NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF SIX-POINT AGREEMENT IS AN INDICATION OF ISRAELI INTENTIONS AND STATING THAT EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES SHOULD BE ON THE ALERT.
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